










ARTIFACT CATALOGUE

	<p>Paleoindian fluted spear point</p> <p>These spear points are distinguished by a fluting or channel flake scar that travels from the base up both sides towards the tip. Preparation and removal of the channel flake required a special technique. Note also that tiny, parallel-sided flake scars appear along the edges of the specimen. These were produced by pressure flaking. Made more than 10,000 years ago, these spear points are found at a few sites in Maine, and in many sites across North America, where they are commonly called Clovis points. Often they were manufactured from fine-grained stone that could not have been obtained in Maine. These spear points are believed to have been used for hunting large game animals, such as caribou.</p>
	<p>Paleoindian side scraper</p> <p>Side scrapers are another type of scraping implement. These tools are not as regularly shaped as endscrapers because they were manufactured from a wider range of flake shapes. But like end scrapers, they were produced by chipping away the edge of a flake from one side only, were commonly made throughout the Paleoindian Period, and were used to process organic materials, like animal skins and bone.</p>
	<p>Late Paleoindian spear point</p> <p>This type of spear point is very rare in Maine; only a few have been discovered. They were made around 10,000 years ago. They were not “fluted,” but did share shape characteristics and pressure-flaked edges with earlier spear point forms. The points were likely also used for hunting large game animals.</p>

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE 2

	<p>Paleoindian perforator</p> <p>Stone tools for perforating hides that were to be sewn together, or for making holes in bone and wood so that pieces could either be lashed together to form composite tools or so that they could be suspended with cords, are referred to as “perforators.” They are a common type of artifact recovered from Paleoindian campsites. Perforators were manufactured from flakes by chipping along two edges to meet at a sharp point.</p>
	<p>Paleoindian end scraper</p> <p>Scraping tools are another diagnostic tool form belonging to the Paleoindian Period. Their form does not appear to change much between 11,000 and 9,500 years ago. They were made by carefully chipping around the edges of specially prepared flakes on one side only. These unifacially flaked tools are also made from a variety of rocks, many of which were collected to the south and west of Maine. They may have been fixed into wooden or bone handles and used to prepare hides and to scrape tougher materials, like bone and antler.</p>
	<p>Middle Archaic stemmed projectile point</p> <p>Chipped stone spear points are not common in the Middle Archaic Period between 8,000 and 6,000 years ago. One diagnostic type that has been recovered from Maine archaeological sites has a straight stem. Like different kinds of Early Archaic chipped stone points, this kind of Middle Archaic point is much more common to the south of Maine, where it is variably referred to either as a Stark point or a Neville point.</p>

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE 3

		<p>Middle Archaic ground stone rod</p> <p>Stone rods make their appearance in Maine during the Middle Archaic Period about 7,000 years ago and continue into the Late Archaic Period to about 3,900 years ago. They come in all sizes. Some are small, like this one. Other specimens are more than 18 inches long. Some are very cylindrical, taper to points at both ends, and are highly polished. Others are not so well made, irregularly elliptical in cross section, and are not well polished. They are found in campsites and burial sites. Their function remains a mystery.</p>
		<p>Late Archaic ground stone plummet</p> <p>Plummets are another kind of stone tool, like stone rods, for which function is not well understood. They apparently were made for the first time about 6,000 years ago in the Late Archaic. Plummets are not found in archaeological sites belonging to the Ceramic Period. They occur in a variety of sizes. Some are very polished. Others, like this specimen, are covered with tiny indentations indicating that they were pecked into shape with a hammerstone. A neck or constricted area where a cord could have been attached is diagnostic.</p>
		<p>Late Archaic stemmed spear point</p> <p>Near the end of the Late Archaic Period between 3,900 and 3,000 years ago, the manufacture and use of ground stone tools almost disappears. Large, distinctively shaped spear points appear as one of the characteristic implements of this time period. They are stemmed, have wide blades, and were manufactured from rocks, such as felsite and rhyolite, which could be obtained in Maine. Known as Susquehanna points because of their resemblance to similarly dated spear points in southern New England, some archaeologists infer that they indicate a migration of people into Maine during the Late Archaic.</p>

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE 4



Late Archaic ground stone gouge

Many different kinds of wood-working tools are found in Late Archaic Period sites dating between 6,000 and 3,900 years ago. Some of them, like stone gouges, make their appearance in the Middle Archaic Period, however. Stone gouges, with long and short channels, were pecked and ground into shape. They have sharp, polished bit ends for working wood. Like many kinds of ground stone tools, they have been excavated from campsites as well as cemetery sites.



Late Archaic ground stone adze

Adzes are another form of heavy wood-working tool found in sites dating to the Late Archaic Period. They possess a sharp, polished edge for chipping wood. They do not possess a channel. Their surfaces may be highly polished or show evidence of manufacture with a hammerstone as indicated by small, numerous pits. This specimen shows pitting and polishing. Adzes are commonly found from Late Archaic sites in the interior of Maine along lakes and waterways.



Late Archaic ground stone spear point

This large, Late Archaic stone spear point or knife may be unfinished. It bears some evidence of decoration in the form of incised lines that begin near the sides of the base and come together near the tip. Large specimens, such as this one, have counterparts made from bone or swordfish bill in coastal Late Archaic shell midden sites.

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE 5



Ceramic Period side-notched projectile point

The introduction of clay pots into Maine about 3,000 years ago marks the beginning of the Ceramic Period which lasted up until contact with Europeans in the late 1500s. Many different kinds of spear points and projectile points were made during this time period. A common form of projectile point, which may been manufactured more often in the earlier rather than later part of the Ceramic Period, was notched by pressure flaking its sides. Notches were presumably important for securing the point to an arrow shaft.



Ceramic Period rocker dentate stamped pottery sherd

Clay pot making appears in the Maine archaeological record about 3,000 years ago. No complete pots have ever been excavated. Small sherds that have been refit like three dimensional jig-saw puzzles give us rare insights into what complete vessels looked like. Most pots were conical in form. Clay for their manufacture was probably collected locally. Crushed rock, shells, or other materials were added to the clay to temper it. The most common method of production involved coiling ropes of clay on top of each other and then pinching them together. None of the pots was ever decorated with paint. Instead, designs were impressed before the clay had hardened. Recent research has shown that some aspects of manufacturing, including choices of temper, vessel shape and wall thickness, and decoration styles changed through time. One of the earlier decoration methods involved making a stamping tool with small, regularly spaced square projections. When rocked back and forth on the surface of the wet clay, the stamps left rows of dentate impression. This replica pottery sherd possesses rocker dentate impressed decoration.

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE 6

 A dark brown, irregularly shaped pottery sherd with a prominent cord-wrapped stick pattern. The pattern consists of horizontal, slightly wavy lines that are deeply impressed into the surface of the clay.	<p>Ceramic Period cord-wrapped stick pottery sherd</p> <p>Pottery in the middle and later Ceramic Period was made in much the same fashion as the earlier Ceramic Period. A few innovations include use of shell for temper and decoration impressed with cord-wrapped stick and punctations. This decorative technique involved wrapping a stick with cord and impressing it into the wet clay. The resulting impression is very distinctive. This pottery sherd replica is impressed with cord-wrapped stick design. The end of the stick was used to make the circular punctations near the top of the rim.</p>
 A dark brown, irregularly shaped pottery sherd with a linear incised pattern. The pattern consists of several parallel, slightly wavy lines that are deeply impressed into the surface of the clay.	<p>Ceramic Period linear incised pottery sherd</p> <p>The most recent prehistoric Maine pottery tends to have much thinner walls than do earlier pots. Manufacturing techniques appear to remain similar, however. Vessels were sometimes “collared,” and vessel form was often less conical. This sherd specimen is decorated with “linear incision.” Linear incised decoration was produced by dragging a pointed tool across the surface of the wet clay.</p>
 A light-colored, elongated bone harpoon. It has a long, straight shaft with a small, curved hook-like shape at one end. The bone is smooth and appears to be made from a single piece.	<p>Ceramic Period small bone harpoon</p> <p>Artifacts manufactured from bone are preserved in shell middens. The oldest bone artifacts are less than 5,000 years old, but this is likely due to poor preservation and destruction of older shell middens by erosion than to whether bone was used before this time. Bone could be fashioned into all kinds of durable and flexible implements. This one was probably made from a section of bone that was grooved and splintered from a mammal leg bone. It was cut and snapped at its base, and then was whittled and scraped into final form with a chipped stone knife and end scraper. A variety of piercing and snagging bones are commonly found in Ceramic Period archaeological deposits. This specimen was cast from a small harpoon with two barbs. It was likely used to spear fish.</p>

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE 7



Ceramic Period large bone harpoon

Like the small bone harpoon, this harpoon was probably used to spear fish or perhaps even sea mammals. It was probably made from the leg bone of a deer and produced in the same manner as the small harpoon.



Ceramic Period bone awl

This simple bone tool is one of the most common found in Ceramic Period sites from 3,000 to 500 years ago. An awl is a sharp, pointed tool made from a splinter of bone or a bone that already has a natural pointed end. This awl is made from a duck wing bone. It was ground and polished to a sharp tip. People used awls for punching holes in skins to sew them together for clothing. They also made birchbark containers, wigwams and canoes with awls. The circular holes in clay pots could be made using an awl.



Ceramic Period bone flute

This specimen, although incomplete, attests to the value prehistoric people placed on music. Bone flutes are known from Late Archaic Period and Ceramic Period archaeological sites. Flutes and other types of musical instruments were probably made even much earlier in time but have not been preserved. This flute, like the few others that have been recovered, is made from the wing bone of a goose.



Hammerstone

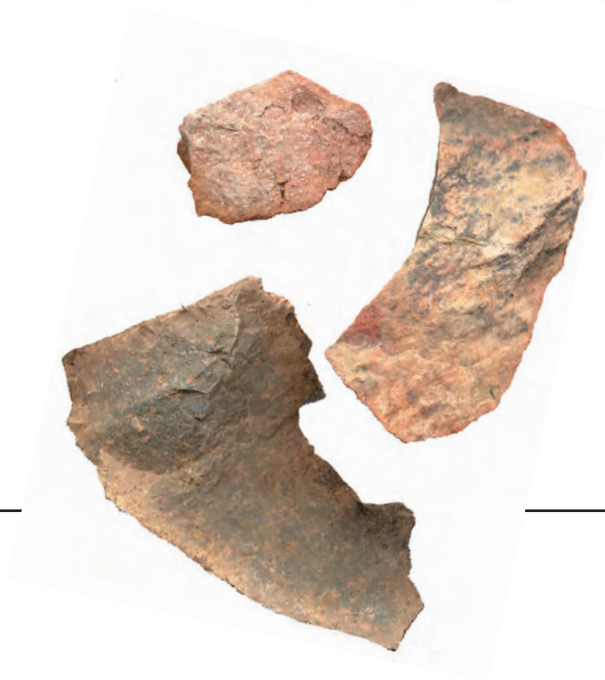
Hammerstones were tools for making other kinds of tools. They could be used to peck stones into desired shapes or they could be used to chip the edges of stones to thin them and to shape them into projectile points. Hammerstones are found in archaeological sites of all time periods. Many were simply fashioned from cobbles, collected on the shores of rivers and lakes, that fit comfortably in the hand. Round surfaces became battered and faceted through repeated use. Note the battering on this specimen.

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE 8



Ceramic Period chipped stone knife

Knives, chipped from stone, were made in most prehistoric time periods. Sometimes, the edges of spear points and projectile points were also used as cutting tools. Unlike those tool forms, however, chipped stone knives are often not symmetrical in form. They may have been hand held, set into bone and wooden handles, or chipped in such a way that they possessed a natural “handle.” This specimen is of the latter form.



Fire-cracked rocks

Archaeologists find many other kinds of evidence of prehistoric human activity besides artifacts. One important item common in the archaeological record, at least as far back as the Middle Archaic, is fire-cracked rock. Fire-cracked rock, commonly called “FCR,” is an indicator of places where prehistoric people made fires to keep warm and to cook food. Hearths were frequently lined with stones collected from nearby that changed color and broke up into irregular shaped fragments when they cooled. These specimens are actual pieces of fire-cracked rock from a prehistoric archaeological site.